volume 1 chapter

Natural Beauty

by Sou Mikato

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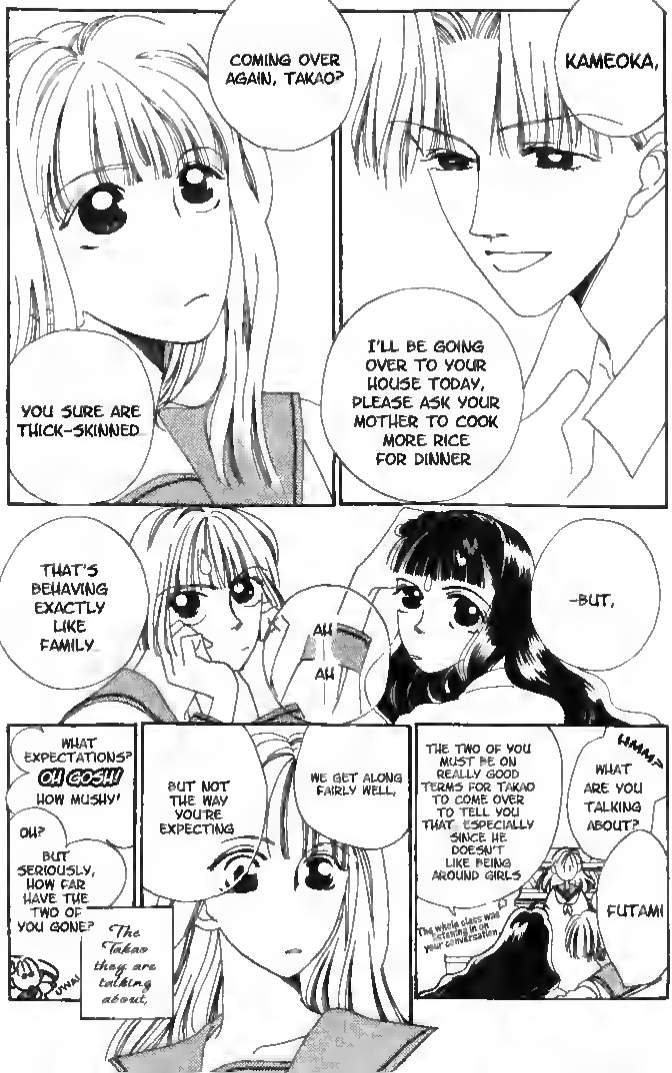
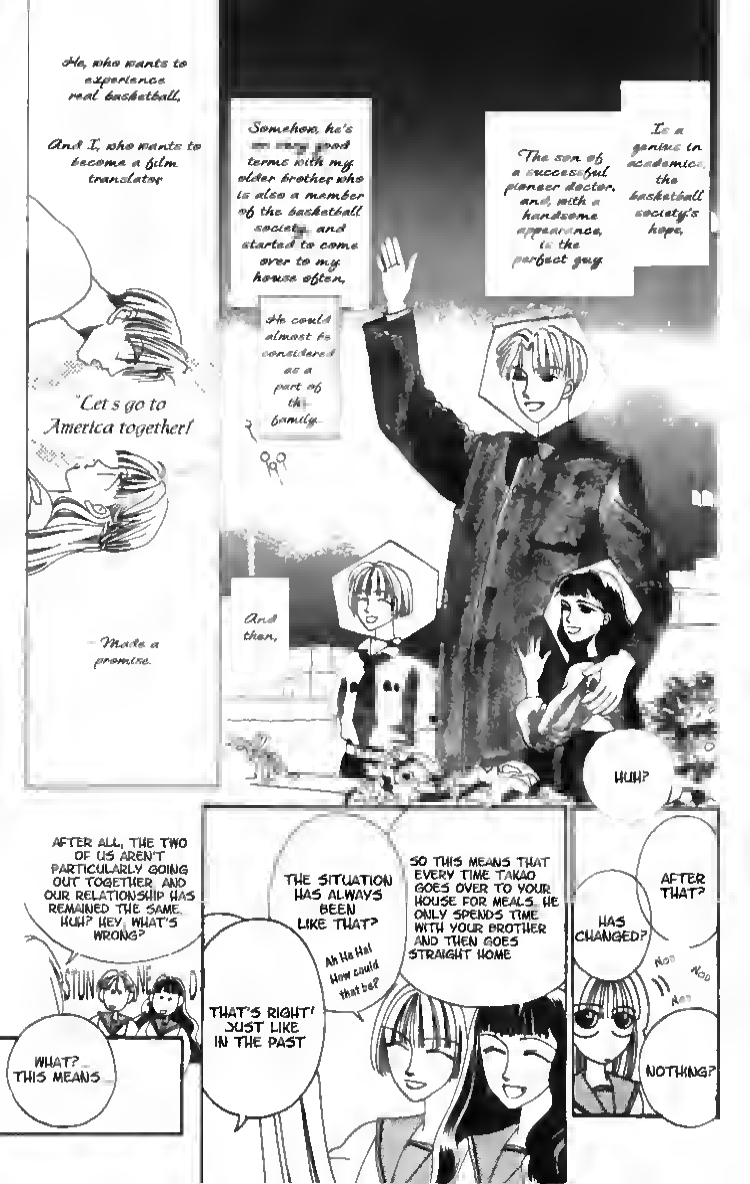
Natural Beauty

天然素材でいこう。

浪漫美少女

BY ASOU MIKOTO


COMING OVER AGAIN, TAKAO?
KAMEOKA,
YOU SURE ARE THICK-SKINNED
I'LL BE GOING OVER TO YOUR HOUSE TODAY, PLEASE ASK YOUR MOTHER TO COOK MORE RICE FOR DINNER
THAT'S BEHAVING EXACTLY LIKE FAMILY
AH
AH
-BUT,
WHAT EXPECTATIONS?
OH GOSH! HOW MUSHY!
OH?
BUT SERIOUSLY, HOW FAR HAVE THE TWO OF YOU GONE?
UHM...
"The Takao they are talking about,
BUT NOT THE WAY YOU'RE EXPECTING
WE GET ALONG FAIRLY WELL,
THE TWO OF YOU MUST BE ON REALLY GOOD TERMS FOR TAKAO TO COME OVER TO TELL YOU THAT, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE DOESN'T LIKE BEING AROUND GIRLS
The whole class was listening in on your conversation.
UHMM?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
FUTAMI


He, who wants to experience real basketball,
And I, who wants to become a film translator
"Let's go to America together!"
Made a promise.
Somehow, he's [illegible] good terms with my older brother who is also a member of the basketball society, and started to come over to my house often.
He could almost be considered as a part of the family.
The son of a successful pioneer doctor, and, with a handsome appearance, is the perfect guy
Is a genius in academics, the basketball society's hope,
And then,
HUH?
AFTER THAT?
HAS CHANGED?
Nod Nod Nod
NOTHING?
SO THIS MEANS THAT EVERY TIME TAKAO GOES OVER TO YOUR HOUSE FOR MEALS, HE ONLY SPENDS TIME WITH YOUR BROTHER AND THEN GOES STRAIGHT HOME
THE SITUATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT?
Ah Ha Ha! How could that be?
THAT'S RIGHT! JUST LIKE IN THE PAST
AFTER ALL, THE TWO OF US AREN'T PARTICULARLY GOING OUT TOGETHER AND OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS REMAINED THE SAME. HUH? HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT? THIS MEANS...

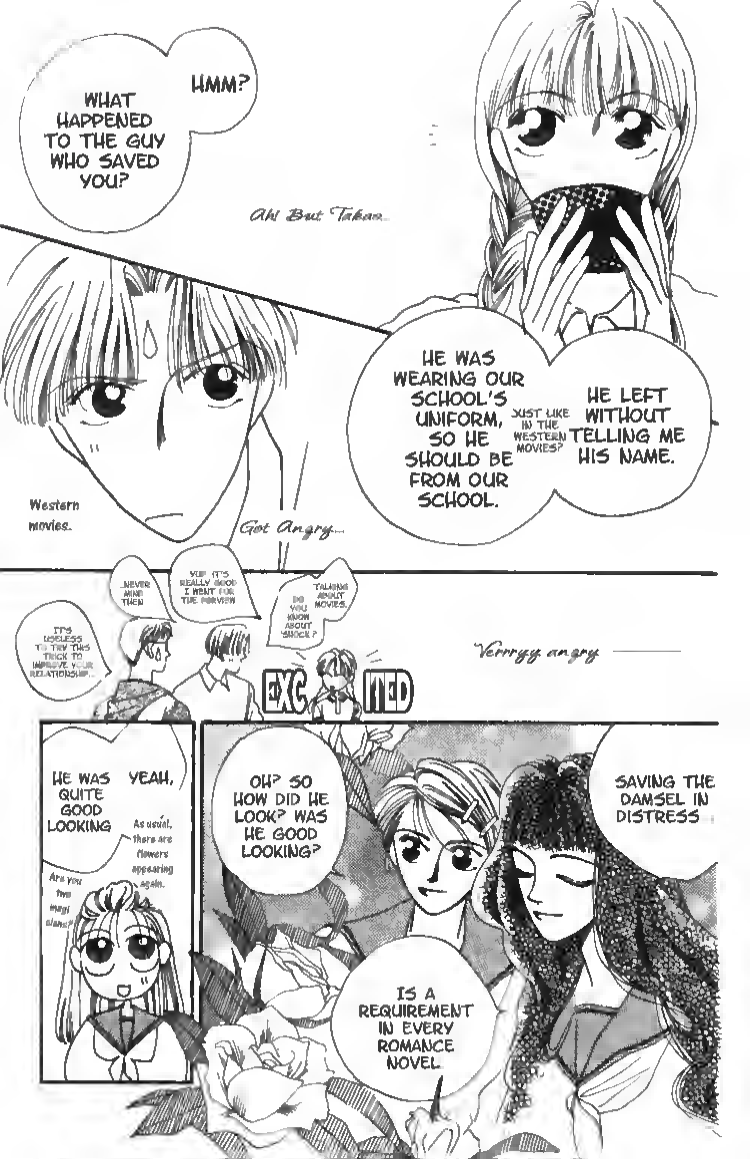
WE SAVED YOU FROM THE CLUTCHES OF TAKAO'S FANATIC ADMIRERS,
FOR NOTHING!
PROBABLY NOT
HIS "LET'S GO TO AMERICA TOGETHER" DIDN'T HAVE A DEEPER MEANING?
IF THAT'S TRUE... THIS MEANS...
INDIFFERENT
FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE.
UM... YEAH, I'M SORRY
DRAMA SERIAL QUALITY? WHAT'S THAT?
So he's not part of the family yet.
Totally not!
YOU ARE FAR FROM HAVING THE DRAMA SERIAL QUALITY
MAYBE THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT
BUT, WOULD HE ASK A GIRL HE DIDN'T LIKE TO GO OVERSEAS WITH HIM?
DOESN'T THAT MAKE ME SEEM VERY EGOISTIC AND CONCEITED?
BUT TO LINK THAT SENTENCE TO US BEING INVOLVED ROMANTICALLY,

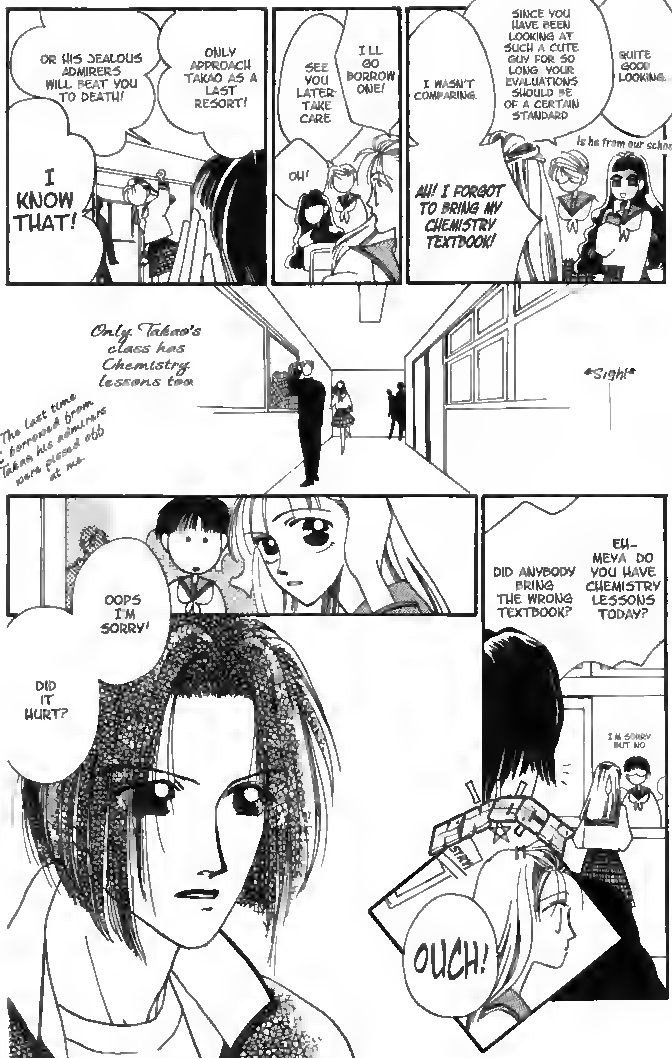
I HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT IT'S ORIGIN BUT AN ARTICLE SAID –
There are many drama seeds scattered about in this world, invisible to us
If they are properly nurtured, each seed can bloom into a spectacular drama serial
While deciding to pluck a flower
Found a cat
After being shocked for bringing it home, set out to find its owner
Some guy comes to claim the cat.
I saw the poster
So if someone unconsciously collects a huge amount of these seeds and nurtures them well
That person has the drama serial quality within them
SO WHY DO YOU SAY THAT I AM FAR FROM HAVING THAT QUALITY?
Oh–
The sapliness of love are budding.
The drama seed was the initial flower
NEED YOU ASK?
WHENEVER YOU ENCOUNTER SOMETHING ROMANTIC, YOU ARE EITHER INDIFFERENT ABOUT IT, LAUGH IT OFF, OR WORSE, DON'T REALISE IT AT ALL. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
Even if you picked up a seed, you wouldn't even water it.
THUNK
I'm so sorry about that.

HIGHLY CONFIDENT, BEAUTIFUL AND INTELLIGENT SISTERS
Misai and Rinbo's existence is a drama serial in itself.
GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT!
IF YOU HAVE THE GUTS.
If that is so,
I have some sort of unexplainable expectation towards Taikan.
Maybe that's why,
Hmmm?
In that sense,
FULL MOON
WOW! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MOON!
I'm not outstanding in terms of looks or character; I am just a normal person.
Wait! From the looks of it, he might be
What is this guy up to? The weather is so warm, yet he is wearing such a big coat, and he has shifty eyes
PLUS
PLUS
PLUS

NO! NO! DON'T COME CLOSER!
AAH-
HEY MISS.
LOOK HERE!
FLASH
OPEN
CENSORED
Eeh!~~~~
Exactly what I thought~~~~
WOOSH
AH!
SWISH
SWISH
Hmm?
HE RAN AWAY?

I seemed to have picked up a drama seed
ARE YOU OKAY?
At that time...
YOU IDIOT!
OH RIGHT, AND YOU CAN HAVE DINNER HERE AS WELL, TAKAO
I didn't mean that...
It would be better if I had said "I'll send you home instead
THEN INFORM ME THE NEXT TIME YOU'LL BE COMING HOME LATE... I'LL COME HOME WITH YOU
BUT... IF I DIDN'T USE THAT PATH, I COULDN'T RETURN HOME!
WHO ASKED YOU TO USE THAT DESERTED PATH, NO WONDER YOU MET A FLA, FLA, FLASHER!
WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY?


HMM?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GUY WHO SAVED YOU?
Ah But Takao...
HE WAS WEARING OUR SCHOOL'S UNIFORM, SO HE SHOULD BE FROM OUR SCHOOL.
JUST LIKE IN THE WESTERN MOVIES?
HE LEFT WITHOUT TELLING ME HIS NAME.
Western movies.
Got Angry...
NEVER MIND THEM
YUP, IT'S REALLY GOOD I WENT FOR THE PREVIEW
TALKING ABOUT MOVIES...
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SHOCK?
IT'S USELESS TO TRY THIS TRICK TO IMPROVE YOUR RELATIONSHIP...
Verrrry angry
EXCITED
HE WAS QUITE GOOD LOOKING
YEAH,
As usual, there are flowers appearing again.
Are you the magic alien?
OH? SO HOW DID HE LOOK? WAS HE GOOD LOOKING?
SAVING THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS
IS A REQUIREMENT IN EVERY ROMANCE NOVEL


OR HIS JEALOUS ADMIRERS WILL BEAT YOU TO DEATH!
ONLY APPROACH TAKAO AS A LAST RESORT!
I KNOW THAT!
SEE YOU LATER. TAKE CARE
I'LL GO BORROW ONE!
OH!
I WASN'T COMPARING.
SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT SUCH A CUTE GUY FOR SO LONG, YOUR EVALUATIONS SHOULD BE OF A CERTAIN STANDARD
QUITE GOOD LOOKING.
Is he from our school?
AH! I FORGOT TO BRING MY CHEMISTRY TEXTBOOK!
Only Takao's class has Chemistry lessons too
Sigh!
The last time I borrowed from Takao his admirers were pissed off at me.
OOPS I'M SORRY!
DID IT HURT?
DID ANYBODY BRING THE WRONG TEXTBOOK?
EH- MEYA DO YOU HAVE CHEMISTRY LESSONS TODAY?
I'M SORRY BUT NO
OUCH!

TREAT THIS AS AN APOLOGY..
I'll hand this to you.
WEREN'T YOU FEELING TROUBLED OVER THIS?
What is she saying...
THE GUY WHO CAUGHT THE FLASHER FROM YESTERDAY!
SISTER!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YESTERDAY!
GYAA!!
THE FLASHER FROM YESTERDAY!
drop
OH!
Last resort?
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER, I AM SO GRATEFUL TO YOU!
WHAT NOTHING!
IT'S NOTHING, SO I'LL BE GOING NOW
AND FOR LENDING ME THIS TEXTBOOK.
GRAB
THANKS TO YOU, I DON'T HAVE TO USE THE LAST RESORT

YOU ARE SO FRIENDLY.
BLUSH
.....
THE BELL'S RINGING, I'VE GOT TO GO
Ring Ring
Oh, right! I should get back to class
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HUH? THE GUY FROM YESTER-DAY?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO ASK HIM?
YUP! HE HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY. HE'S A REALLY NICE GUY.

after the message to my readers, now its time to talk about asou's favourite things, and a self-introduction.

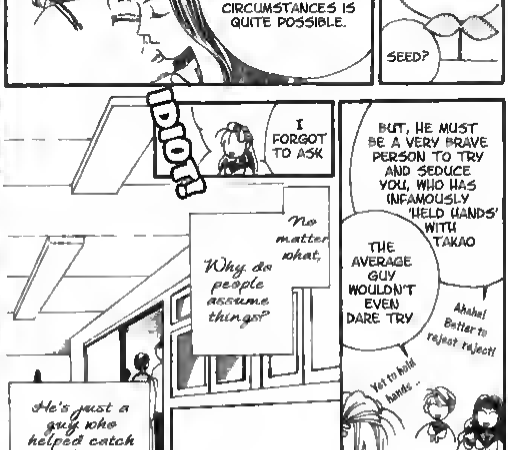
Chapter 1

ANIMALS

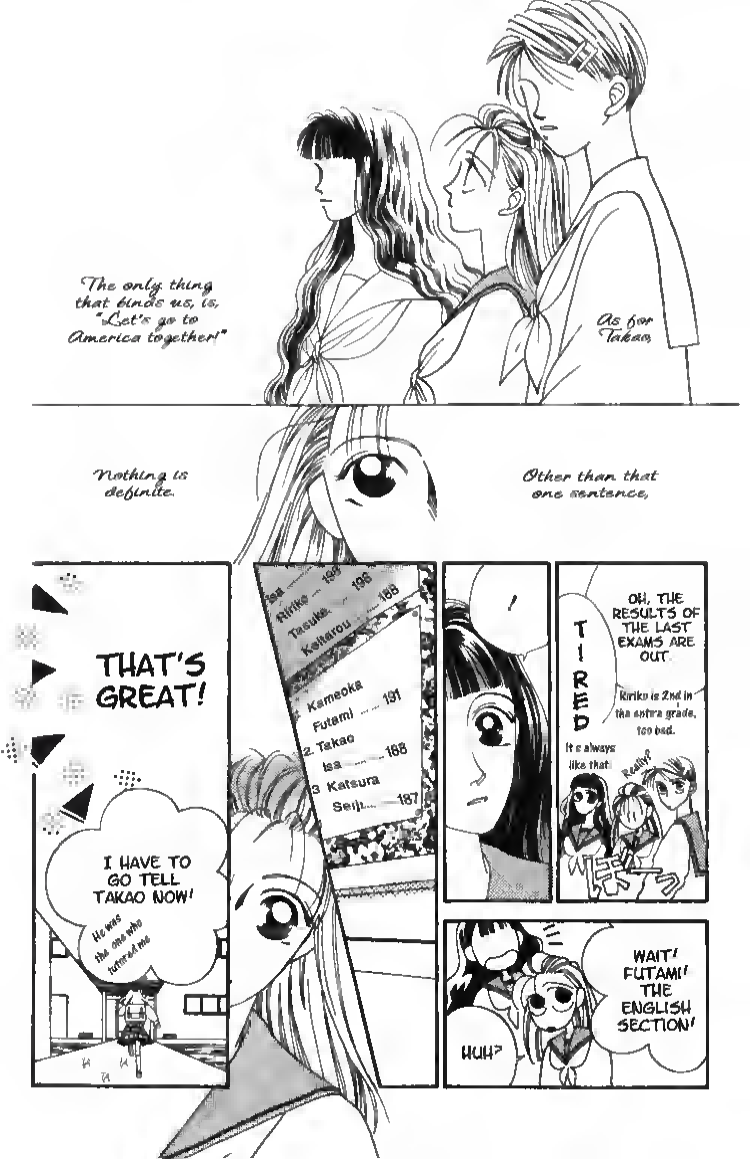
Asou's only current form of entertainment is to browse the 'pets-for sale' corner in department stores. The poor little animals locked in cages are pitiful...but Asou does not have the courage to buy one and take care of it in the backyard. But... it should be possible with hamsters. thus I'm actively searching. I still prefer furry animals. "Playful family" and the program that I wake up to every day "Today's little woof" are shows I never miss.

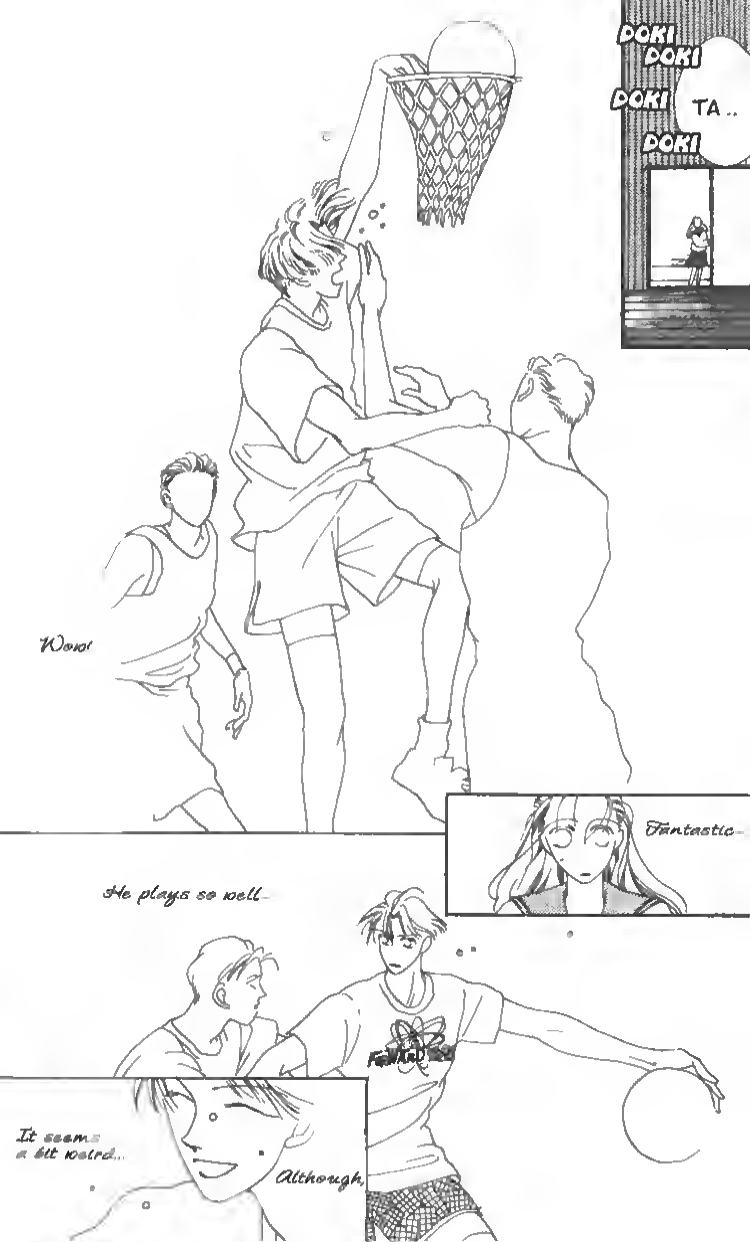
I love marine animals too...with the exception of starfishes. The Underwater Aquarium is a very important healing place for Asou. If there was a chance for reincarnation, I would definitely want to be a whale.

WHAT'S WITH THAT SKEPTICAL LOOK?
NICE GUY?
HAPPENED TO PASS BY?
IT MIGHT NOT BE PURELY COINCIDENTAL
AND HE ALWAYS TAKES THE INITIATIVE TO HELP YOU,
THAT'S TOO COINCIDENTAL TO BE BELIEVABLE, ONCE MAYBE, BUT TWICE...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?


DOO
I FORGOT TO ASK
No matter what,
Why do people assume things?
He's just a guy who helped catch a flasher and lent me his textbook
BUT, HE MUST BE A VERY BRAVE PERSON TO TRY AND SEDUCE YOU, WHO HAS (INFAMOUSLY) 'HELD HANDS' WITH TAKAO
THE AVERAGE GUY WOULDN'T EVEN DARE TRY
Ahaha! Better to reject, reject!
Yet to hold hands...
This girl's so popular
SO, WHAT'S HIS NAME?
OH!

*Translator's Note- I translated the two pet program names literally, since I have no idea what they are called in Japan.


"The only thing that binds us, is, "Let's go to America together!"
As for Takao,
Nothing is definite.
Other than that one sentence,
THAT'S GREAT!
I HAVE TO GO TELL TAKAO NOW!
He was the one who turned me
Isa 194
Ririko 196
Tasuke 188
Keitarou 188
1 Kameoka Futami 191
2 Takao Isa 188
3 Katsura Seiji 187
!
TIRED
OH, THE RESULTS OF THE LAST EXAMS ARE OUT
Ririko is 2nd in the entire grade, too bad.
It's always like that
Really?
WAIT! FUTAMI! THE ENGLISH SECTION!
HUH?


DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
TA..
DOKI
Wow!
Fantastic
He plays so well
Although,
It seems a bit weird...

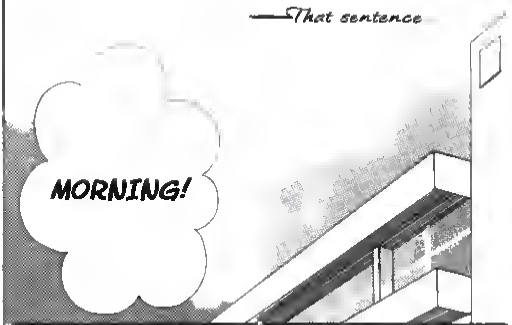
SFX UGH
BUT YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME CALLING YOU
I DID,
YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED ME
YUP.
But I feel very happy
My biology is horrible for an aspiring doctor
I HAVE TO WORK HARD TOO
DIDN'T I TEACH YOU MATH TOO?
HEE HEE TAKAO-SENSEI DESERVES ALL THE CREDIT
Even though I flunked math
"giggle"
Ha. Ha. Ha.
I'M SUCH A...
AGH
OH, YES! YOUR ENGLISH RESULTS WERE FANTASTIC!
WHAT'S THERE TO BE TROUBLED ABOUT?
HEY!
YOU WAITED FOR AN HOUR?
IS STILL GOING TO BE A DOCTOR AFTER ALL
OH, TAKAO
Oh right, this means...
Would you like to go to America with me?
So
I want to go to America
SEE YA, FUTAMI!
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
TAKAO
I want to play real basket ball
OF COURSE, I'M THE ONLY SON I HAVE TO INHERIT THE HOSPITAL

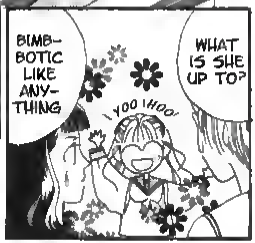
Chapter 2
Plays

I like to watch live plays. My favourite playwright is *Kouki Mitani*, director *David Robert*, actors *Yoshida Asahi* & *Arata Furuta*, and the multi-talented artiste *Noda Hideki*. Frankly speaking, my tastes are very varied, I'm afraid there's no way for these people to get together. Yes, Asou does not have any fixed principles. Digressing out of topic, there was a play I watched a long time ago, and I saw the now popular *Etsushi Tokokawa* half-naked close up. I have been very proud of it. so what?

For the Western side, it's the world renowned *Blue Man Comp* & *Cirque du Soleil* etc. I heard that the musical 'Tommy' will be coming to Japan to perform this year, fantastic!

—That sentence

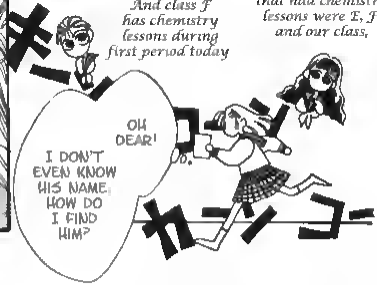


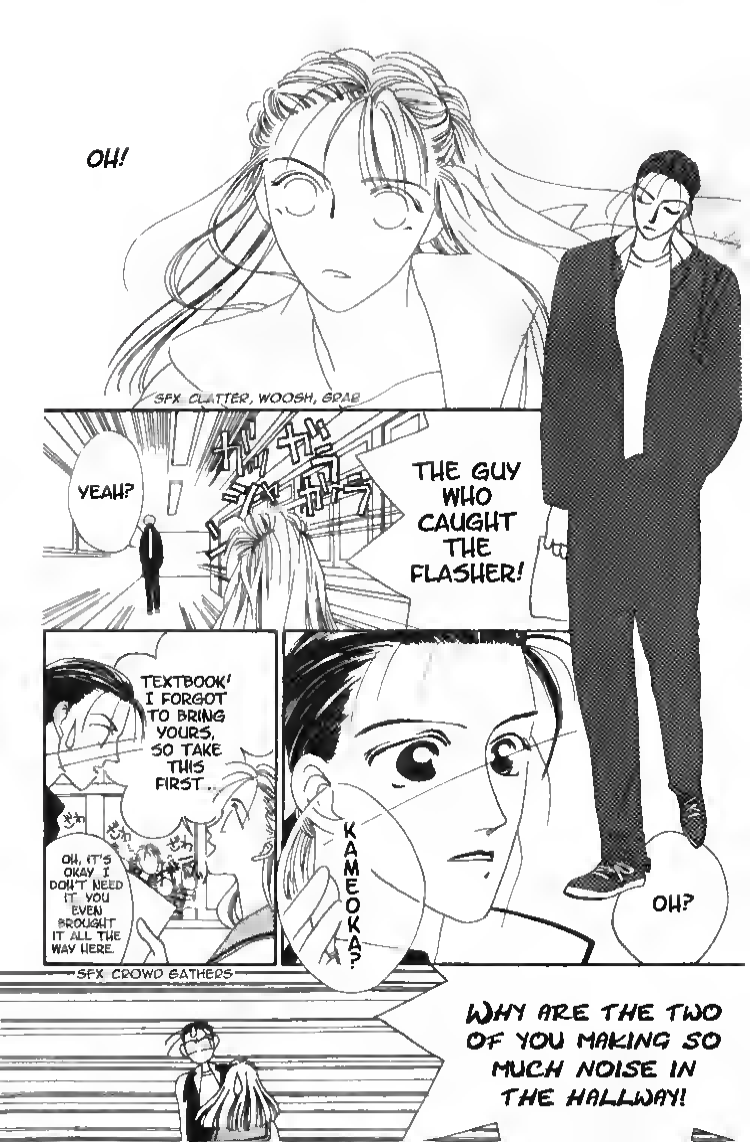


Anyway, I'd better borrow a copy from someone else and lend it to him first.

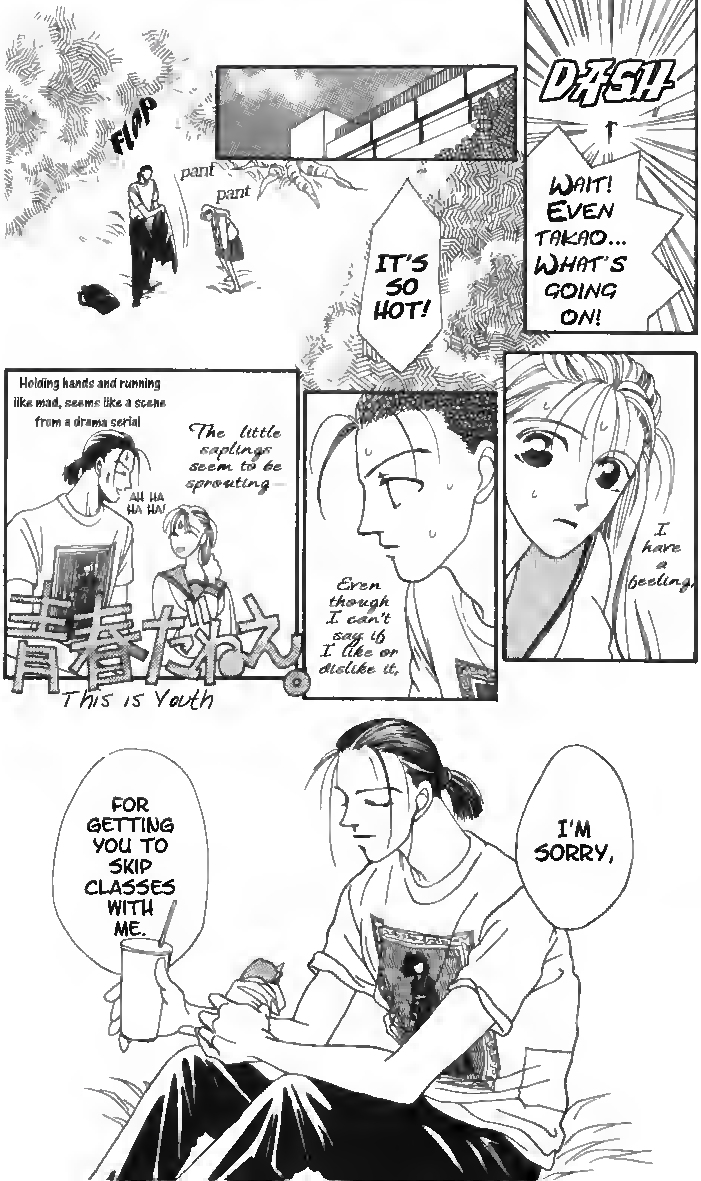
And class F has chemistry lessons during first period today.

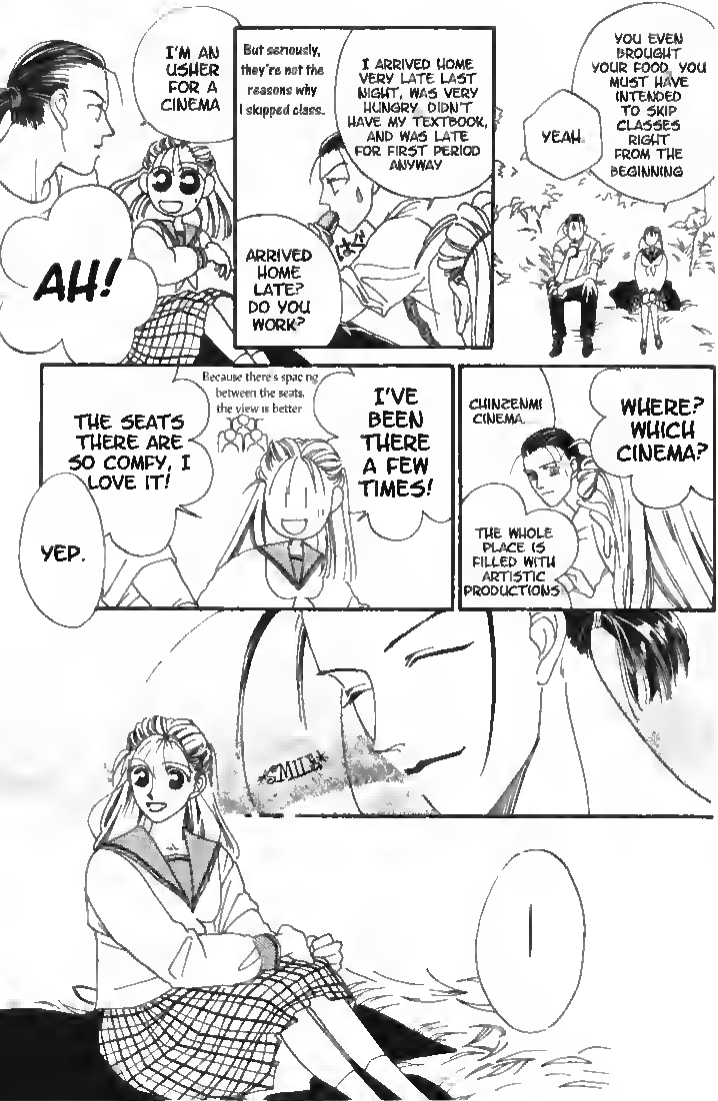
According to the teacher, the classes that had chemistry lessons were E, F, and our class.

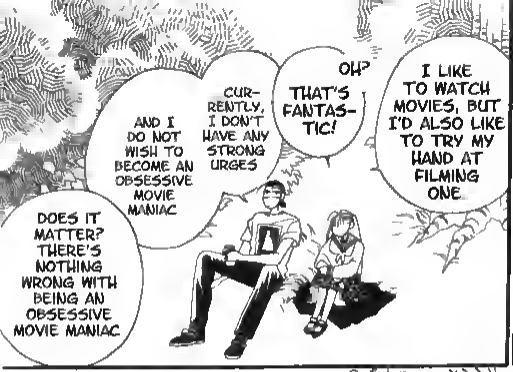


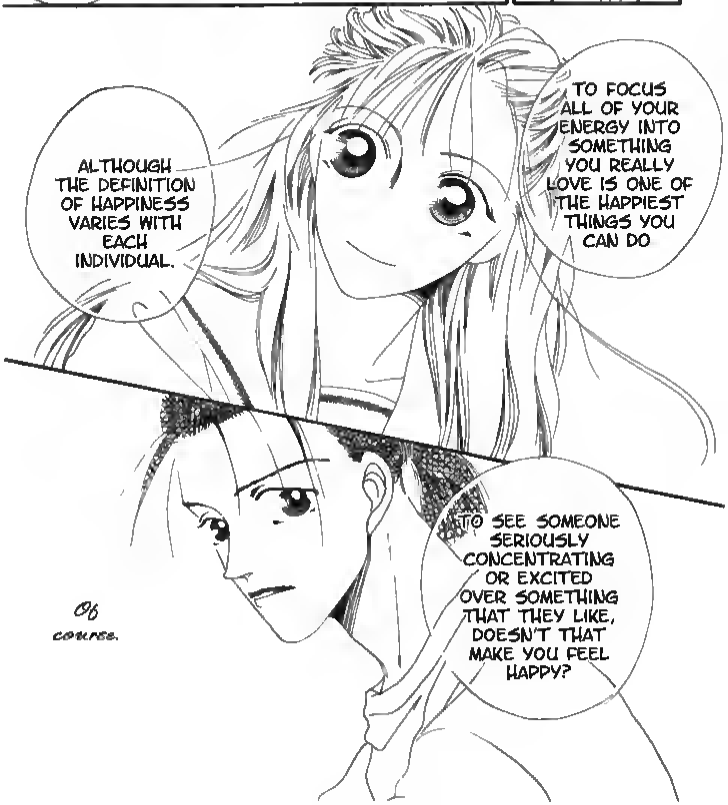

OH!
SFX CLATTER, WOOSH, GRAB
YEAH?
SFX
THE GUY WHO CAUGHT THE FLASHER!
TEXTBOOK! I FORGOT TO BRING YOURS, SO TAKE THIS FIRST.
OH, IT'S OKAY I DON'T NEED IT. YOU EVEN BROUGHT IT ALL THE WAY HERE.
KAMEOKA?
OH?
SFX CROWD GATHERS
WHY ARE THE TWO OF YOU MAKING SO MUCH NOISE IN THE HALLWAY!

!
Oops!
SFX: FROZEN
SFX: GRAB
HEY YOU TWO!
I'M VERY SORRY!
EH?
IMPOSSIBLE!
RUN!
SFX: PULL
TAKAO...
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THOSE TWO ARE REALLY DARING.
NO IDEA
WHAT CLASS ARE THOSE TWO FROM!
Whoa!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!
SO COOL! I WANT TO SKIP CLASS TOO!
SFX: COLLAPSE

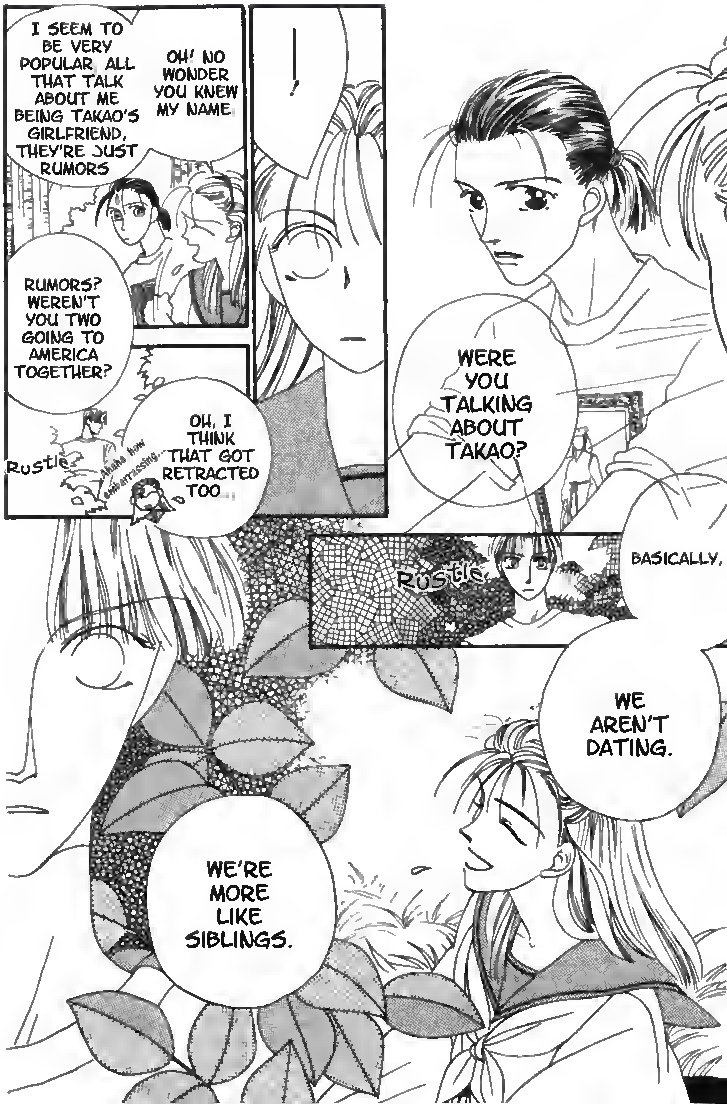

FLAP
pant
pant
IT'S SO HOT!
DASH
WAIT! EVEN TAKAO... WHAT'S GOING ON!
I have a feeling.
Even though I can't say if I like or dislike it,
Holding hands and running like mad, seems like a scene from a drama serial
AH HA HA HA!
The little saplings seem to be sprouting—
青春だネ。
This is Youth
FOR GETTING YOU TO SKIP CLASSES WITH ME.
I'M SORRY,


AH!
I'M AN USHER FOR A CINEMA
ARRIVED HOME LATE? DO YOU WORK?
But seriously, they're not the reasons why I skipped class.
I ARRIVED HOME VERY LATE LAST NIGHT, WAS VERY HUNGRY, DIDN'T HAVE MY TEXTBOOK, AND WAS LATE FOR FIRST PERIOD ANYWAY
YEAH.
YOU EVEN BROUGHT YOUR FOOD. YOU MUST HAVE INTENDED TO SKIP CLASSES RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING
YEP.
THE SEATS THERE ARE SO COMFY, I LOVE IT!
Because there's spacing between the seats, the view is better
I'VE BEEN THERE A FEW TIMES!
CHINZENMI CINEMA.
WHERE? WHICH CINEMA?
THE WHOLE PLACE IS FILLED WITH ARTISTIC PRODUCTIONS
SMILE
I


DOES IT MATTER? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING AN OBSESSIVE MOVIE MANIAC
AND I DO NOT WISH TO BECOME AN OBSESSIVE MOVIE MANIAC
CURRENTLY, I DON'T HAVE ANY STRONG URGES
OH?
THAT'S FANTASTIC!
I LIKE TO WATCH MOVIES, BUT I'D ALSO LIKE TO TRY MY HAND AT FILMING ONE.
The atmosphere feels strange.
DO YOU LIKE MOVIES?
KIND OF...


ALTHOUGH THE DEFINITION OF HAPPINESS VARIES WITH EACH INDIVIDUAL.
TO FOCUS ALL OF YOUR ENERGY INTO SOMETHING YOU REALLY LOVE IS ONE OF THE HAPPIEST THINGS YOU CAN DO
TO SEE SOMEONE SERIOUSLY CONCENTRATING OR EXCITED OVER SOMETHING THAT THEY LIKE, DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU FEEL HAPPY?
Of course.

Takao playing basketball,
His bright eyes glistening like the stars in the sky
That concealed little grin when he shoots,
Makes him look like the happiest person
But,
So I hope that he can be the happiest person
HUH?
SO THAT HAPPIEST PERSON,
SO?
This might be a one-sided wish

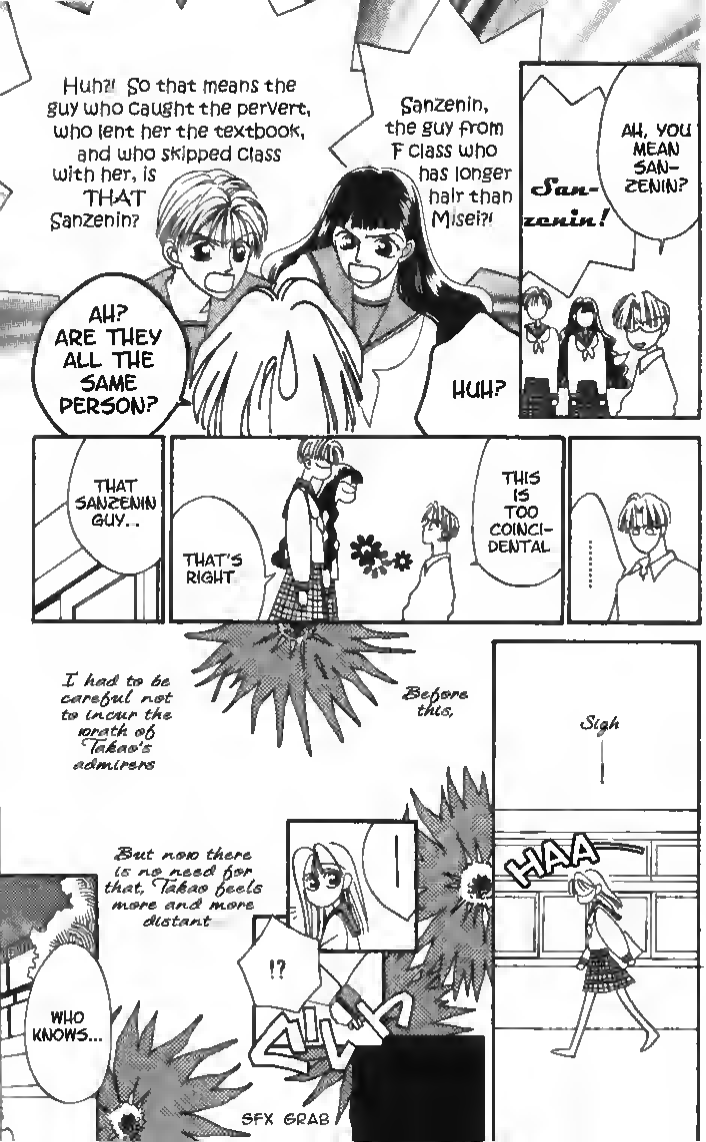

I SEEM TO BE VERY POPULAR. ALL THAT TALK ABOUT ME BEING TAKAO'S GIRLFRIEND, THEY'RE JUST RUMORS
OH! NO WONDER YOU KNEW MY NAME.
!
RUMORS? WEREN'T YOU TWO GOING TO AMERICA TOGETHER?
Rustle...
Akiko now understanding
OH, I THINK THAT GOT RETRACTED TOO...
WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT TAKAO?
Rustle...
BASICALLY,
WE AREN'T DATING.
WE'RE MORE LIKE SIBLINGS.

FROZEN IN PLACE
.....
FUTAMI!
IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO SKIP CLASS.
OH, YEAH, I WAS WITH THE GUY WHO LENT ME HIS TEXT-BOOK
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
IT'S NOTHING REALLY, JUST THAT THE CIRCUM-STANCES AT THE TIME
THEY'VE ALREADY SPROUTED, WITH LEAVES AND ALL, DON'T TELL ME IT'S TIME FOR THE FLOWERS TO BLOOM?
ONLY WAITING TO BEAR FRUIT.
What's bearing fruit?

THE PROBLEM IS NOT WITH THE OTHER PARTY BUT WITH YOU
YOU ARE SO IRRITA-TING!
TO THINK OF THIS AS A ROMANCE, ISN'T IT TOO RUDE TO THE OTHER PARTY?
BUT MY DEAR SIS-TERS,
AS LONG AS FUTAMI IS HAPPY.
BUT IT'S OKAY TO BLOOM AND BEAR FRUIT WITH ANYONE,
WHO IS IN YOUR HEART?
Me?
HUH?
I HAVE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE
YOU HAVE BEEN SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THE OTHER PARTIES' FEELINGS, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING SHOULD BE YOUR OWN FEELINGS
My feelings...
Is it like this...
THAT I WOULD NEVER THINK ABOUT MY OWN FEELINGS.
BECAUSE WHEN SOMEONE EVEN BOTHERS TO LIKE ME,
I BECOME SO THANKFUL FOR HIS EXISTENCE,
BECAUSE I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT ME.
SHOULD I CALL YOU HUMBLE, OR PITIFUL..
It's okay
It's okay
THAT'S WHAT'S NICE ABOUT YOU
Good girl

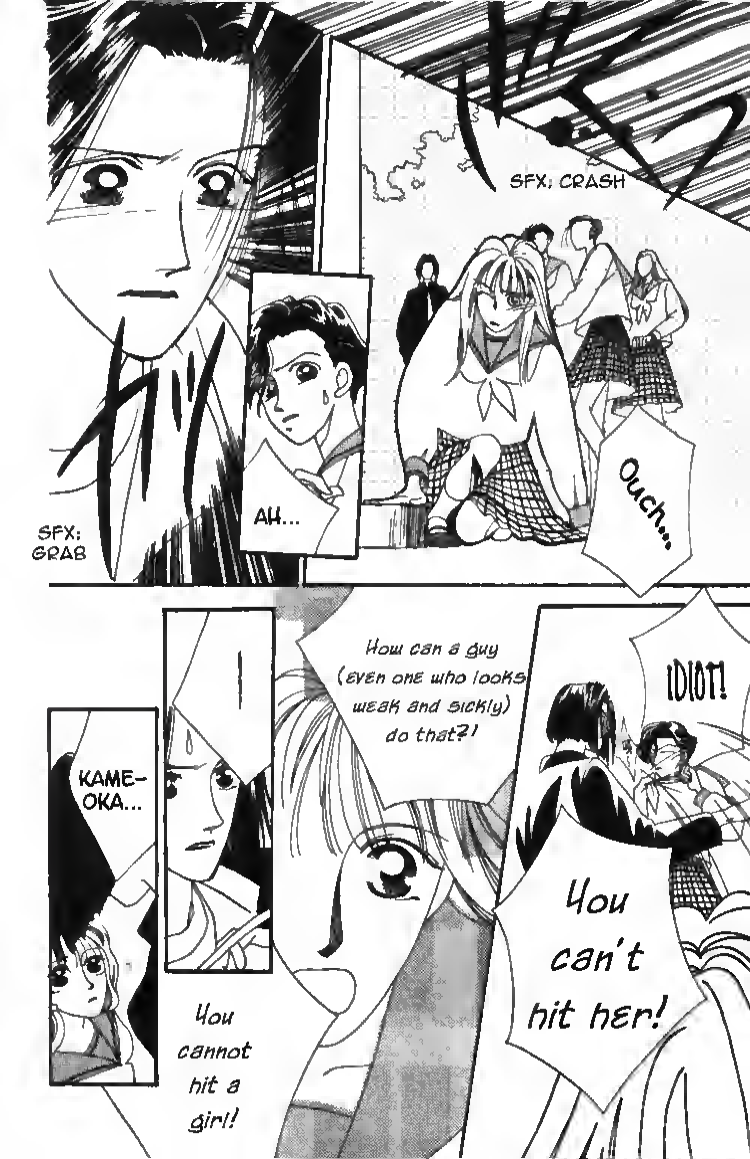
KAMEOKA!
You should teach us more
It would be better if you had more of the drama serial quality
TAKAO!
If you can handle these situations
WHAT'S UP? COMING OVER FOR DINNER?
I THINK..
PLEASE TELL YOUR MOTHER.
BYE.
We can't even be as close as siblings?
This means,
I WILL BE VERY BUSY FOR A WHILE, SO I WON'T BE GOING OVER TO YOUR HOUSE.

SO WE WANT TO KNOW,
WHAT DID YOU TELL FUTAMI! TAKAO?!
SHE WAS SILLY THE ENTIRE MORNING,
BEHAVING LIKE AN IDIOT
AND KEPT SMILING THE WHOLE DAY 'TIL IT GROSSED US OUT!
AFTER SPEAKING WITH YOU YESTERDAY, FUTAMI'S BECOME A DIFFERENT PERSON! I HAVE EVIDENCE!
Misel's admirer
witness
How scary!
ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING...
SHOCK
SHE EVEN SKIPPED CLASS JUST NOW TO LOOK FOR THE TEXTBOOK GUY!
TEXT-BOOK GUY?
ISN'T SHE ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
THERE'S STILL A DIFFERENCE.


Huh?! So that means the guy who caught the pervert, who lent her the textbook, and who skipped class with her, is THAT Sanzenin?
Sanzenin, the guy from F class who has longer hair than Misei?!
AH, YOU MEAN SAN-ZENIN?
San-zenin!
AH? ARE THEY ALL THE SAME PERSON?
HUH?
THAT SANZENIN GUY..
THAT'S RIGHT
THIS IS TOO COINCI-DENTAL
.....
I had to be careful not to incur the wrath of Takao's admirers
Before this,
Sigh
HAA
But now there is no need for that, Takao feels more and more distant
!?
WHO KNOWS...
SFX GRAB

SHE WAS ALSO CORNERED BY GIRLS IN THE LAST CHAPTER
WHY DO I ALWAYS END UP IN THESE TYPE OF SITUATIONS?
YOU SHOULD KNOW THE ANSWER!
WHO CARES IF YOU'RE IN THE WRONG OR NOT? WE JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO INVOLVE SANZENIN AS WELL!!
Who cares about Takao?
HUH?
I DON'T THINK THAT I'VE DONE ANYTHING WRONG, WHY DO I HAVE TO BE SINCERE?
THAT APOLOGY DIDN'T SOUND VERY SINCERE.
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT I'M SORRY IF I MADE YOU FEEL THAT WAY IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL
DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN ACT HAUGHTY AND PROUD JUST BECAUSE TAKAO LIKES YOU.
YOU BETTER BE MORE HUMBLE!
UWAH! How scary
SFX ARGH
HOW COULD SANZENIN BE CAUGHT BY SUCH A GIRL?!
SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE ANGRY OVER THIS?
OH! IS HE THAT GUY THAT LENT ME HIS TEXTBOOK?
You guys take action quickly
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HIM, WHY DO YOU TALK TO HIM SO MUCH?
WHO'S SANZENIN?

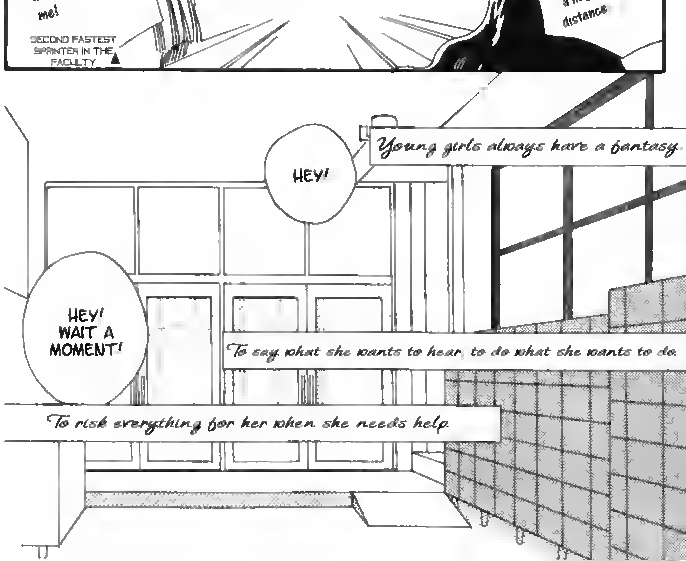
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THAT I HAVE BREAKFAST NEAR HERE.
DISPERSE! DISPERSE!
Stop making a ruckus
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SANZENIN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 'DIFF-ERENT'?
SHE'S DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF YOU.
THAT'S BECAUSE,
DIFFERENT, AS IN "UNIQUE" AND "SPECIAL".
Now, Buzz off! Go away!
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
WHY THIS GIRL...
AH
SFX: PUSH


SFX: CRASH
SFX: GRAB
AH...
Ouch...
IDIOT!
How can a guy (even one who looks weak and sickly) do that?!
You can't hit her!
KAME-OKA...
You cannot hit a girl!

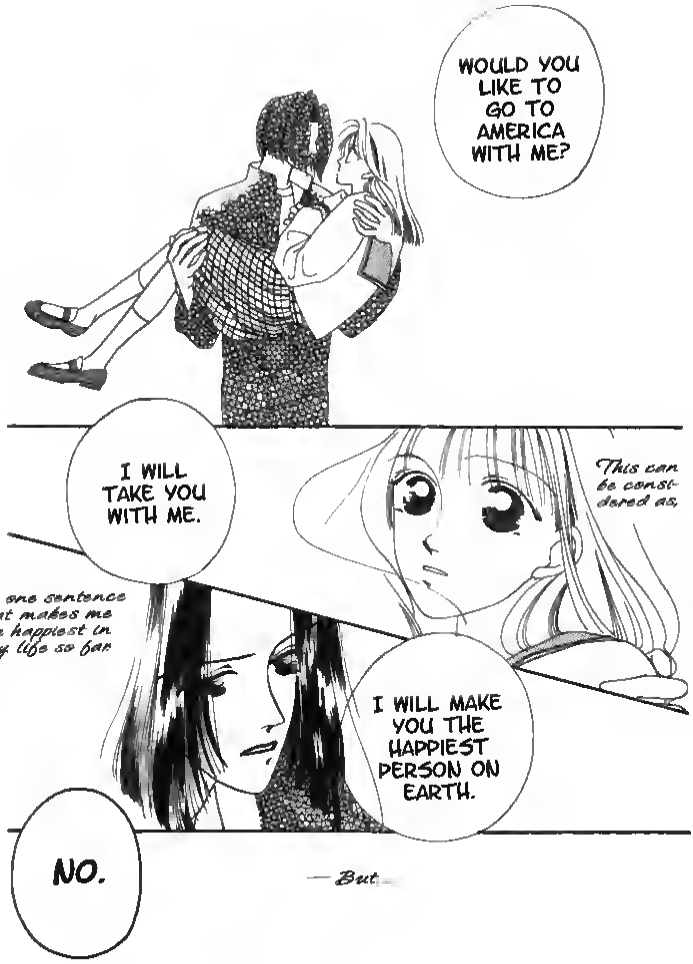
Just like in a drama serial~~~~~

LOVE IS WORTHLESS I SWEAR TO DESTROY IT!
HE'S... HE'S A FAMOUS PLAYBOY.
ONE WHO WILL DO ANYTHING TO OVER-COME CHALLENGES.
SNATCHING OTHERS' GIRLFRIENDS IS HIS FORTE.
HE NEVER TIRES OF PLAYING, SO IT'S NOT SO BAD IF HE DOESN'T GET SERIOUS.
BUT FUTAMI IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET TAKAO TO OPEN UP. IT IS THE HARDEST OF CHALLENGES...

WHOA! SO FAST!
He has already covered a huge distance
MAD DASH
He's even faster than me!
THAT'S TAKAO!
SECOND FASTEST SPRINTER IN THE FACULTY.

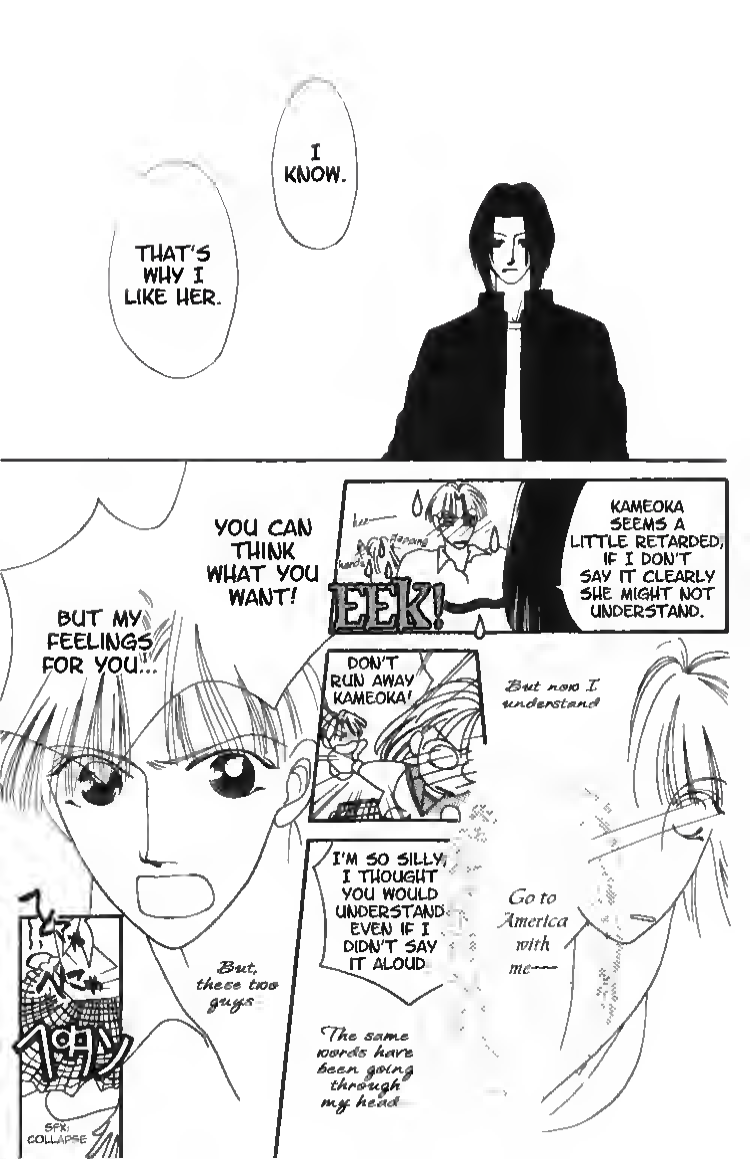

Young girls always have a fantasy.
HEY!
HEY! WAIT A MOMENT!
To say what she wants to hear, to do what she wants to do.
To risk everything for her when she needs help.

AH,
A prince on a white horse
HEY,
COULD YOU PUT ME DOWN?
NO WAY!
I CAN WALK BY MYSELF.
Although, in situations like this, it is more appropriate for the prince to have long hair.
But
SANZENNI'
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO IMPRESS A GIRL.
ニヤリ
SFX GRIN
YOU GRASP THE ESSENCE OF DRAMA SERIALS VERY WELL,
EVEN I FEEL LIKE THE FEMALE LEAD
AND WHAT IF I SAID,
I USE THESE TRICKS ON NO ONE ELSE BUT YOU?
Huh?
KAMEOKA?


WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO AMERICA WITH ME?
I WILL TAKE YOU WITH ME.
This can be considered as,
The one sentence that makes me the happiest in my life so far
I WILL MAKE YOU THE HAPPIEST PERSON ON EARTH.
NO.
—But...

I WON'T ALLOW IT.
YOU CAN'T JUST GO WITH HIM, KAMEOKA.
TO GO TO AMERICA WITH ME
BECAUSE I WAS THE ONE WHO GOT HER TO AGREE FIRST.
WHISK
falling gently
I DO!
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT?
YOU WON'T ALLOW IT?
CON FUSED
I ASKED HER-
TO GO TO AMERICA WITH ME.
Ah!

YOU IDIOT!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR...
HUH?
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO PLAY BASKETBALL OR STUDY ABROAD?
WAIT... WAIT A MINUTE!
Why do I feel this way?
SANZENIN, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO!
I AM NEITHER SURE, NOR AM I CONFIDENT...
I have been thinking about whom my heart is with
I AM GOING TO BE A DOCTOR!
I'm supressing my feelings within me.
I am neither sure, nor am I confident
SHE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER GIRLS YOU'VE PLAYED WITH!
I CAN STILL BE A DOCTOR EVEN AFTER I'VE BECOME AN OLD MAN!
BUT THAT'S AFTER I'VE PLAYED ENOUGH BASKETBALL!

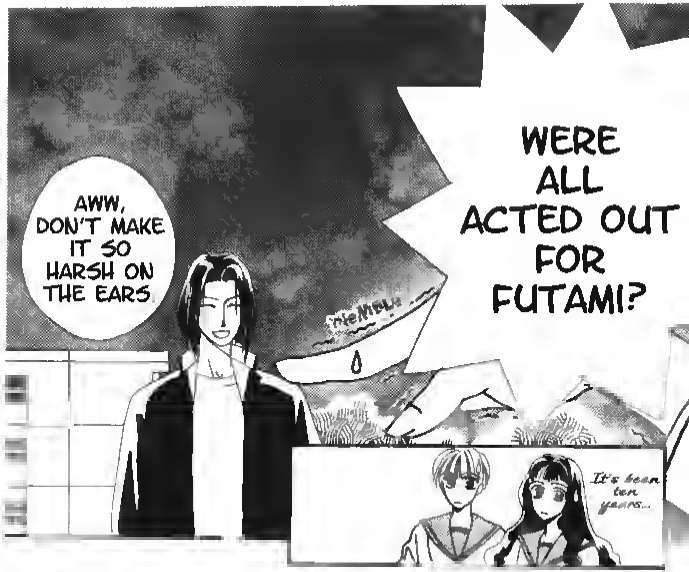

I KNOW.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE HER.
KAMEOKA SEEMS A LITTLE RETARDED, IF I DON'T SAY IT CLEARLY SHE MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND.
EEK!
YOU CAN THINK WHAT YOU WANT!
BUT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU...
DON'T RUN AWAY KAMEOKA!
But now I understand
I'M SO SILLY, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND EVEN IF I DIDN'T SAY IT ALOUD
Go to America with me—
But, these two guys
The same words have been going through my head
SFX: COLLAPSE

Their words are going through my head in different ways
DON'T SAY ANY-MORE
I BEG OF YOU
I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY CLEARLY ANYMORE
DOSE

HELLO!
I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE TWO PRETTY LADIES WELCOMING ME
TO THINK THAT FUTAMI TOLD US HE WAS A SHY AND QUIET GOOD GUY,
WE CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ACTUALLY YOU
YEAH...
TO THINK I PRACTICED SO HARD FOR THIS IN THE END THE PERFORMANCE STILL HAD ITS FLAWS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SOMEONE LIKE YOU ACTUALLY GETS NERVOUS IN FRONT OF GIRLS?
I'm actually a timid boy
THAT'S SO MEAN IT MAKES ME SOUND LIKE SOME CRAZY AND SHAMELESS GUY
BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE
FOR SOMEONE WHO TRIED TO TWO-TIME MISE! AND I IMMEDIATELY AFTER ENTERING SCHOOL,
GREAT CHALLENGE
GREAT CHALLENGE
NO, IT'S BECAUSE BOTH OF YOU ARE TOO CHARMING, I COULDN'T MAKE A CHOICE...
YOU DARE SAY YOU'RE TIMID?!

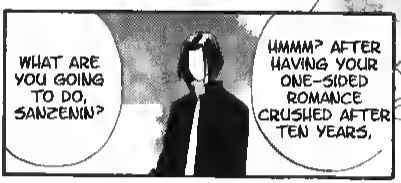
THEN WHY?!
I...
OF COURSE,
IF I WERE TO CHEAT, A GIRL LIKE HER, THEN I WOULD BE A BAD PERSON, WOULDN'T I?
THEN WHAT ABOUT FUTAMI?
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE TYPE OF GIRL YOU LIKE.
HUH?
WAS VERY FAT WHEN I WAS A KID.
WHEN KINDERGARTEN STARTED, EVERYONE CALLED ME 'FAT PIG'.
EVEN THOUGH I HATED IT, I LAUGHED ALONG WITH THEM.
BUT, THERE WAS ONE GIRL, WHO ALWAYS CALLED ME BY MY NAME.
AND AT HER PLEADING, EVERYONE STOPPED CALLING ME 'FAT PIG'.

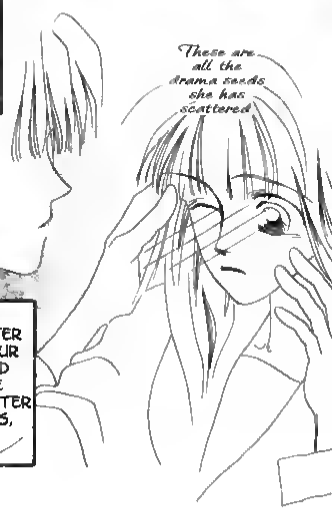
WAIT; DON'T TELL ME THAT GIRL WAS...
AFTER THAT I BECAME THINNER,
AND SOMEHOW STARTED GETTING POPULAR WITH GIRLS,
THE SAME GIRLS WHO USED TO CALL ME 'FAT PIG' STARTED BEING FRIENDLY TOWARDS ME.
IT WAS ONLY THAT ONE GIRL WHO TREATED ME THE SAME.
BUT I HAVE BEEN WATCHING HER ALL THIS TIME
WHEN SHE'D LEAVE THE CINEMA TEARY-EYED,
WHEN SHE LOOKED UP AT THE STARS AND THE MOON WHILE STROLLING AT NIGHT...
...THAT MEANS THE CATCHING OF THE FLASHER WASN'T COINCIDENTAL?
I WAS WALKING BEHIND
As a bodyguard.
WAIT A MINUTE, THIS MEANS,
YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES WITH THE OTHER GIRLS WERE ALL...

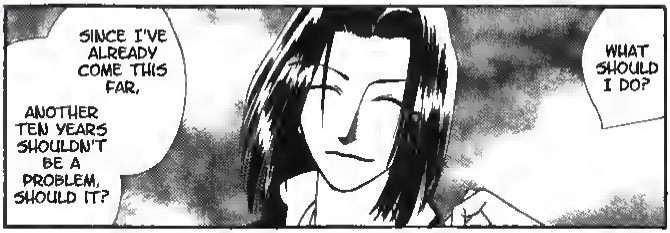

AWW, DON'T MAKE IT SO HARSH ON THE EARS.
WERE ALL ACTED OUT FOR FUTAMI?
It's been ten years...

I DIDN'T MANAGE TO WIN HER OVER; SHE MUST BE EXTRA-ORDINARY
EVEN WITH SUCH A GREAT DRAMA SERIAL SCRIPT-WRITER,
BUT SHE'S REALLY SOME-THING,

WHO ASKED HER TO BE SUCH A SELFISH PERSON?
That brat.
OF COURSE


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SANZENIN?
HMMM? AFTER HAVING YOUR ONE-SIDED ROMANCE CRUSHED AFTER TEN YEARS,


These are all the drama seeds she has scattered.



However there's only one real drama serial going on

As long as you open your heart, you will understand

The words that keep going through your mind,

Romantic Girl / End